

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

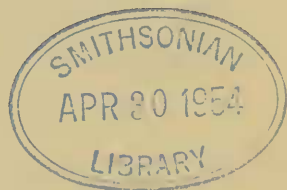
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 214

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species
of the genus *Actinote* Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta,
Order Lepidoptera) in harmony with accustomed usage



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 214

DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF A
TYPE SPECIES FOR THE GENUS "ACTINOTE"
HÜBNER [1819] (CLASS INSECTA, ORDER
LEPIDOPTERA) IN HARMONY WITH
ACCUSTOMED USAGE

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers all type selections for the genus *Actinote* Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and *Papilio thalia* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated as the type species of this nominal genus. (2) The generic name *Actinote* Hübner [1819] (gender of name : feminine), with the type species designated under (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 648. (3) The specific name *thalia* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Papilio thalia*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 26.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The present application, which is based upon a paper by Mr. Francis Hemming published in March 1936 (Hemming, 1936, *Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond. (B.)* 5 : 56—57) was submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature jointly by Mr. Hemming and Mr. N. D. Riley (*British Museum (Natural History)*, London) in May 1938. The application so

submitted, which on receipt was given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)63, was as follows :—

**Proposed suspension of the Règles for “Actinote” Hubner [1819]
(Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera)**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
(Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature),

and

N. D. RILEY
(Keeper of the Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History).)

HÜBNER ([1819], *Verz. bekannt. Schmett* (2) : 27) founded the genus *Actinote* Hübner for four species which he cited as follows :—

- 208. *Actinote Thalia* Linn. Syst. Pep. [sic] 67. Cram. 246. A.
- 210. *A. Epaea* Cram. 230. B.C.
- 211. *A. Eurita* Cram. 233. A.B.
- 212. *A. Amesis* Cram. 104. F.

Scudder (1875, *Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci.*, Boston, 10 : 102) designated the third of these species, *Papilio eurita* Cramer, as the type. Accordingly, it is necessary to determine the identity of the species so named by Cramer. An examination both of Cramer's published plate and of the original drawings for that plate now in the British Museum (Natural History) show that Cramer figured two species under this name. Figure A on plate 233, which Cramer regarded as representing the ♂ of *Papilio eurita*, in fact represents a specimen of *Bematistes umbra* (Drury), ♀-form *fasciata* (Auriv).¹ Figure B on the same plate, which Cramer regarded as representing the ♀ of *Papilio eurita* in fact represents a ♀ of *Bematistes macaria* (Fabricius).¹

It is clear from the text given by Cramer (1779, *Uitl. Kapellen* 3 (20): 69, 70) that he did not regard himself as the author of the name *Papilio eurita*, for on the top of page 70 at the end of his account of this species he added the reference “Linn. Syst. Nat. pag. 757. n. 69. Pap. Helicon. Clerck, icon. Tab. 31 Fig. 7.8 ”. This is the species first described as *Papilio eurytus* by Linnaeus in 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* ed. 10 : 487 no. 180), which is the species known to-day as *Pseudacraea eurytus* (Linnaeus).

The position is, therefore, that *Actinote* Hübner is a genus, of which the species selected as the type by a later author (Scudder, 1875) is a

¹ Until recently these species were always referred to the genus *Planema* Doubleday. Hemming has shown (1935, *Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond.* 83 : 435) that this use of the name is invalid and has proposed the name *Bematistes* Hemming (*loc. cit.* 83 : 374) for these species.

species which was erroneously determined by the author of the genus (Hübner), for what Hübner intended to include in the genus as species no. 211 was a species of the genus *Bematistes* Hemming figured by Cramer on plate 233 (though he did not realise that, in fact, Cramer had figured two different species of that genus as Figs. A and B respectively on that plate). Hübner referred the species figured by Cramer to *Papilio eurytus* Linnaeus, 1758, because Cramer had done so and he did not realise that Cramer had made a mistake of identification; Hübner certainly had no intention of including under the name *Actinote euryta* (Cramer) the species of the genus *Pseudacraea* Westwood [1850], to which in fact Linnaeus had given the name *Papilio eurytus* in 1758.

The genus *Actinote* Hübner is, therefore, a genus based upon an erroneously determined species: first, because Cramer confused together two species (of the genus *Bematistes* Hemming), and, second, because he confused his composite *Bematistes* species with the *Pseudacraea* species which in 1758 Linnaeus had named *Papilio eurytus*.

The status of genera based upon erroneously determined species has been dealt with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in *Opinion* 65 (published in 1914); and the decision there laid down has since been elaborated by the Commission by the further decisions taken at Lisbon in 1935 and now embodied in *Opinion* 168. Under these decisions, it is necessary to assume that the species designated as the type of a genus is correctly identified by the original author of the genus and, where the type is designated by a later author, both by that author and by the original author, when including the species in question in the genus concerned. The Commission have, however, made it clear that, where in the opinion of the specialists in the group concerned any of the foregoing assumptions is at variance with the facts, the case should be submitted to the International Commission for decision.

Under the foregoing decisions of the International Commission, it is necessary therefore to conclude that the type of the genus *Actinote* Hübner is *Papilio eurytus* Linnaeus, 1758. In other words *Pseudacraea* Westwood ([1850], in Doubleday, *Gen. diurn. Lep.* (2): 281) to which *Papilio eurytus* Linn. has hitherto been assigned, is a synonym of *Actinote* Hübner.

The position is, therefore, that if the rules were strictly applied in this case, the name *Actinote* Hübner, which has till now been used for a genus of the subfamily ACRAEINAE would be transferred from that subfamily to the subfamily NYMPHALINAE, and would replace the name *Pseudacraea* Westwood, the species of which mimic those of the genus *Acraea* Fabricius, the leading genus in the subfamily ACRAEINAE. It is hardly possible to imagine a case in which the strict application of the rules could lead to greater confusion than would arise if the name *Actinote* Hübner were transferred in this way.

All these difficulties could be avoided if the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature were to cancel Scudder's designation of *Papilio eurita* Cramer as the type of *Actinote* Hübner, and were to declare its type to be *Papilio thalia* Linn., 1758, which is the first of the four species placed in this genus by Hübner, and which has ever since been assigned to that genus.

We accordingly recommend to the International Commission :—

(a) that in virtue of the Plenary Powers conferred upon them by the International Zoological Congress, they should suspend the *Règles* in the case of the generic name *Actinote* Hübner [1819] ;

(b) that they should cancel the designation by Scudder in 1875 of *Papilio eurita* Cramer [1779] (recte *Papilio eurytus* Linn., 1758), as the type of *Actinote* Hübner [1819] ;

(c) that they should declare the type of *Actinote* Hübner [1819] to be *Papilio thalia* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat* (ed. 10) 1 : 467) ; and

(d) that they should add *Actinote* Hübner [1819], with the type designated in (c) above, to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. On 27th June 1939 a notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913.

3. The outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 led to the evacuation of the records of the International Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942, and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. The present case was sent to the printer in September 1944, but owing to paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes publication did not actually take place until June 1946 (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 186—187).

4. After the re-opening of the London Secretariat but before the present application was sent to the printer for publication in the *Bulletin*, a letter dated 20th October 1943, communicated by Mr. Riley, one of the co-applicants, was received from Dr. Robert W. L. Potts (*University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.*), commenting upon the present case, as presented in Mr. Hemming's original paper of 1936 (paragraph 1) and supporting the action proposed. The following is an extract of the relevant portion of Dr. Potts' letter :—

I am enclosing copies of my very brief summary of certain work I have been doing on the Acraeinae As you will note, I decided for *Papilio thalia* Linnaeus, although I had not then come across the excellent discussion of the genotype by Hemming. (Due entirely to a too hurried search through the *Zoological Record* !) I hope that a decision has been, or will soon be, reached by the International Commission. With my feeling that Hübner intended *Actinote* for the American Acraeinae, I should hate to see it go off somewhere else.

5. The only comment elicited by the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin* was a letter (dated 20th April 1947) in which Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen*) indicated his support for the action proposed by writing the word "Yes".

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 1730 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission setting out (1) the discussion which took place on the present application at the foregoing meeting, and (2) the decision then reached on it by the Commission (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 33) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 393—395) :—

THE COMMISSION had under consideration an application (file Z.N.(S.)63) submitted jointly by Commissioner

Francis Hemming (United Kingdom) and Mr. N. D. Riley (British Museum (Natural History) London) asking for the use by the Commission of their Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating *Papilio thalia* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the genus *Actinote* Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) (Hemming and Riley, 1946, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 186—187).

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (MR. FRANCIS HEMMING), said that the present application, which had been submitted by Mr. Riley and himself as specialists in the Order Lepidoptera, was concerned to prevent the confusion which would arise if it were necessary to accept as the type species of the genus *Actinote* Hübner not the species intended by the original author of the genus (a species of the subfamily ACRAEINAE of the family NYMPHALIDAE) but the species (of the subfamily NYMPHALINAE) to which the name of the type species properly applied. The present was therefore a case of a genus having as its type species an erroneously determined species, and, as such, was submitted to the Commission in accordance with the invitation given by the Commission when taking the decision later embodied in their *Opinion* 168, a decision which at the meeting noted in the margin held during the present Session was now to be incorporated in the *Règles*. No objection had been received from any source in regard to the action proposed in this case.

ALTERNATIVE COMMISSIONER N. D. RILEY (UNITED KINGDOM) said that this case was of special importance, for the strict application of the *Règles* thereto would not only cause great confusion in the systematics of the family concerned, but would also have the effect of sinking as a synonym the generic name *Pseudacraea* Westwood [1850], a name widely known to, and used by, workers in the field of mimicry. He commended this proposal to the favourable consideration of the Commission.

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside all selections of the type species of the genus *Actinote* Hübner [1819] (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera) made prior to the present decision ;

(b) to designate *Papilio thalia* Linnaeus, 1758, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) to place the generic name *Actinote* Hübner [1819], with the type species designated in (1)(b) above, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(3) to place the trivial name *thalia* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Papilio thalia*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;

(4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

7. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

Actinote Hübner [1819], *Verz. bekannt. Schmett.* (2) : 27
thalia, *Papilio*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 467.

8. The gender of the generic name *Actinote* Hübner [1819], referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 6 is feminine.

9. The decision taken in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on Monday, 26th July, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 107).

10. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ;

Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

11. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

12. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

13. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

14. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Fourteen (214) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Sixth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING